

Hicks, Lebelle

From: Hicks, Lebelle
Sent: Tuesday, June 12, 2007 9:34 AM
To: Fish, Gary; Schlein, Paul B
Subject: FW: Cases with "natural" insecticides in EPA's "minimum risk pesticides" category [25(b)] ???

FYI

-----Original Message-----

From: Hicks, Lebelle
Sent: Thursday, May 31, 2007 1:45 PM
To: Richard E. Stevenson Jr. (E-mail)
Cc: Jennings, Henry
Subject: FW: Cases with "natural" insecticides in EPA's "minimum risk pesticides" category [25(b)] ???

FYI

-----Original Message-----

From: NIOSH\DSHEFS\SB - SENSOR-PESTICIDES [mailto:SENSOR-PESTICIDES@LISTSERV.CDC.GOV] **On Behalf Of** Justin WALTZ
Sent: Thursday, May 31, 2007 1:19 PM
To: SENSOR-PESTICIDES@LISTSERV.CDC.GOV
Subject: Cases with "natural" insecticides in EPA's "minimum risk pesticides" category [25(b)] ???

In the last two months, the Pesticide Poisoning Prevention Program at the Oregon Public Health Division has investigated several cases involving so-called "natural" insecticides that fall into the EPA's "minimum risk pesticides" category [25(b)] and therefore, are exempt from FIFRA. No other FIFRA pesticides are thought to have been applied.

The toxicity to insects comes from natural chemicals like clove oil, citronella, eucalyptus, etc. But the regulation and requirements for signage (to warn people of an application) seem to be quite minimal.

Yet all three cases involve workers (home inspectors, heating & AC workers, etc) who unwittingly came into contact (contact/inhalation) with the pesticides after application and, as a result became quite ill for a few days. Besides the active ingredients, I suppose the toxicity could result from the proprietary inert ingredients. Moreover, in both cases, the workers wore North half-mask respirators (Model #7700) with P100 particulate filters, but these may not have helped. [One sickened worker claims only inhalation exposure.]

I am wondering if anybody has experienced cases like these? If so, I'd appreciate it if you could describe the situation (s), let the listserv know of any regulatory/education actions were taken during the case, as well as what EPA might do to address the situation.

I have a feeling that we'll be seeing more and more of these cases as pesticide applicators advertise these application services as "natural" (and therefore, "safe").

Thank you - Justin

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